

Application No.: 10/692,470

Docket No.: JCLA12417

REMARKSPresent Status of Application

Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application. The Office Action dated January 17, 2006 indicated that claims 11-17 are allowed and claims 2-3 and 9-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funaoka et al. (US Patent No. 6,824,865) in view of Okayama et al. (US Patent No. 6,300,415).

Claim 1 has been amended by merging the limitation of claim 2, while claim 2 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the specification, claims and drawings. This Amendment is promptly filed to place the above-captioned case in condition for allowance. After entering the amendments, a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Allowable subject matter

The Office Action dated January 17, 2006 allowed claims 11-17 and indicated that claims 2-3 and 9-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciates this indication of allowable subject matter.

Discussion for 35 USC§103 rejections

Claims 1 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funaoka et al. (US Patent No. 6,824,865) in view of Okayama et al. (US Patent No. 6,300,415).

The Applicant has carefully considered the remarks set forth in the Office Action. Claim 1 has been amended by merging the limitation of claim 2, according to the suggestion of the Office Action. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Applicants submit that amended independent claim 1 patently defines over the prior references for at least the reason that the cited reference fails to disclose each and every feature as claimed in the present invention.

Accordingly, the structure of the present invention is patentably distinct from the prior art reference Funaoka or Okayama because none of both references, either alone or in combination, discloses or teaches all limitations of amended independent claim 1, and all pending claims patently define over the cited reference and should be allowed.

Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of these 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/692,470**Docket No.: JCLA12417****CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 3/21/2006

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